

that the rigidity of the filaments has some effect in causing the separation of the loculi; for where the filaments are most slender and delicate, the least amount of separation occurs, and *vice versâ*.

The mode in which this result is produced, is apparently by the strong filaments, as they increase in size, drawing the loculi apart, whilst the slender ones yield and bend inwards, allowing the loculi to retain their position. In proof of this we find, that when the filaments are strong, or united into a tube, the circle of united anthers is large, and when the filaments are slender, the antherine circle is small, and the filaments, though brought together at their apex, are wider apart, and even bulging below. The number examined is twenty-three, the names of which are given in the following list. I have not been able to observe whether any peculiarities exist in the anthers of the allied genera, as they are not now in flower.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Erica Caffra. | Erica magnifica. |
| — rupestris. | — Banksiana. |
| — Eassoniana purpurea. | — verticillata. |
| — rubens. | — hyemalis. |
| — Lambertia rosea. | — vernix coccinea. |
| — linnæoides. | — Sebana lutea. |
| — Aitonia Turnbulli. | — melanthera. |
| — — turgidula. | — Princeps. |
| — ampullacea. | — magnifica. |
| — arbuscula. | — vestita coccinea. |
| — cerinthoides. | — ventricosa superba. |
| — taxifolia. | |

4. "Summary of the Flora of the Lake district of England," by Mr. James B. Davies.

Mr. Davies read a full list of the rarer plants of the district, with their habitats, which he remarked would be found in the Appendix to Black's admirable 'Guide to the Lakes.'

MISCELLANEOUS.

Observations on the Nests of Humming Birds.

By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S. &c.

MR. GOULD exhibited a collection of nests of Humming Birds, exemplifying the habitual characteristic structures of several genera. The first group to which his remarks were directed were the Hermit birds (*Phaëthornis*), which invariably build at the extremity of leaves, perhaps from the protection which that situation affords against the attacks of monkeys and other predatory animals. *Oreotrochilus* builds a beautiful nest, attached to the sides of rocks. *Heliomaster mesoleucus* makes a nest in a beautiful species of moss, depending from the trees. Most of the nests are cup-shaped, some being placed in forks, some on branches, some on leaves, some in ferns; they are shallow and delicately formed, ornamented in the most varied manner with feathers, or with festoons of moss and lichen, especially in the genus *Hylocharis*. The attachment of the lichen and other ornaments is effected by means of fine cobwebs.

The differences in the eggs of Humming Birds are not very observable; they are invariably two in number, white and oblong, with one supposed exception,—namely, that of a species inhabiting the Upper Amazon, which, according to Mr. Edwards, lays a spotted egg. But the differences of structure in the nests sufficiently corroborate the generic divisions into which these birds have been separated by modern ornithologists.

Most of the nests exhibited were from the collection of Mr. Reeves of Rio, who presented them to Mr. Gould in the most liberal manner, with a view to assisting him in the completion of his monograph of this family.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* July 26, 1853.

On a Marsupial Frog (Notodelphys ovifera) from Venezuela.

By Dr. D. F. WEINLAND.

Under the name of *Notodelphys ovifera*, Dr. Weinland has described a singular frog lately received by the Berlin Museum, the female of which possesses large dorsal sacs for the reception of the ova. These sacs open by a fissure in the skin of the back near the anus; they were full of eggs in the specimen examined by the author, but had no communication with the cavity of the body. The eggs were only fifteen in number, of large size, and contained embryos in a forward state of development, exhibiting a broad head, very similar in form to that of the parent, and already furnished with distinct eyes. The body of the embryo terminated in a short tail, at the base of which the hinder feet were visible. The anterior feet were also developed. The embryo had no sucking disc attached to the throat. The external branchiæ consisted of a pair of large membranous bill-shaped organs attached to the branchial arches by long vascular filaments, two to each bill.

In its general structure the animal approaches the Tree-frogs (*Hyla*), and it appears not improbable that the *Hyla marsupiata* of Dumeril and Bibron, which also possesses a dorsal sac, may belong to the same genus.—*Müller's Archiv*, 1854, p. 449.

Descriptions of Two New Species of Ptilonopus.

By GEORGE ROBERT GRAY, F.L.S. & F.Z.S.

PTILONOPUS CHRYSOGASTER, G. R. Gray.

Crown purplish white, margined posteriorly with yellow; sides of the head, neck and breast greyish white, with the base of the feathers of the latter yellow; throat and cheeks pale yellow; abdomen and under tail-coverts bright yellow; sides of the former greyish white, tinged with yellow; back bronzy green; greater wing-coverts, tertiaries and secondaries bluish green, narrowly margined with yellow; quills dull black, with the outer web tinged with green; tail bronzy green, with a very broad apical margin of white, each feather margined with yellow.—Total length, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Hab. —? Probably from Otaheite.

This species is closely allied to the *Pt. purpuratus* (*Columba purpurata*, Gmel., *C. oopa*, Wagl., *Pt. furcatus*, Peale), but it is easily distinguished by the yellow on the abdomen, &c.